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Atty. Dkt. No. 016790-0428

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Holger BIRK, et al
Title: METHOD AND INSTRUMENT
FOR MICROSCOPY
Appl. No.: 09/881,049
Filing Date: 06/15/2001
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: 2874

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT



The relevance of the documents A1 through A9 and A11 through A15 is described in the present specification.

An English translation of the Document A13 is not readily available. However, the absence of such translation does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted foreign language document (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609). An English language abstract is attached.

Document A13 is a foreign counterpart of Document A10.

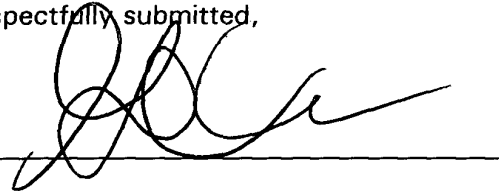
Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Date: November 9, 2001

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Respectfully submitted,

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Form PTO-1449 (MODIFIED)*		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. 016790-0428		SERIAL NO. 09/881,049	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT Holger BIRK, et al			
				FILING DATE 06/15/2001		GROUP ART UNIT 2874	

O I P E
 NOV 09 2001
 PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	NAME			
	A1	09/880,825	June 15, 2001	Birk et al.			
	A2	09/881,046	June 15, 2001	Birk et al.			
	A3	09/881,047	June 15, 2001	Birk et al.			
	A4	09/881,048	June 15, 2001	Birk et al.			
	A5	09/881,062	June 15, 2001	Birk et al.			
	A6	09/881,212	June 15, 2001	Birk et al.			
	A7	09/882,355	June 18, 2001	Birk et al.			

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	A8	3,720,822	March 13, 1973	Rochester et al.	240	1.3	
	A9	6,097,870	Aug. 1, 2000	Ranka et al.	385	127	
	A10	6,154,310	Nov. 28, 2000	Galvanauskas et al.	359	328	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	A11	0 841 557	May 13, 1998	EPO			
	A12	0 495 930	April 28, 1999	EPO			
	A13	198 53 669	May 27, 1999	Fed. Rep. of Germany			Abstract
	A14	00/04613	Jan. 27, 2000	WIPO			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	
	A15 Birks et al., "Supercontinuum Generation in Tapered Fibers", Optics Letters, Vol. 25, No. 19, October 1, 2000, pp. 1415-1417.

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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* **EXAMINER:** Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include any copy of this form with next communication to applicant.